1999-2001 Ozone Air Quality Data Update

Based on air quality monitoring data for the three year period 1999-2001, 4 of the original 12 New England areas designated nonattainment for the 1-hour O3 National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) in 1991 failed to meet the NAAQS in 1999-2001. (A summary for all areas in the country can be found at http://www.epa.gov/airtrends/data/AQupdate2001.pdf.)

EPA set the 1-hour O3 standard at 0.12 parts per million (ppm) daily maximum 1-hour average concentration not to be exceeded more that once per year on average. Compliance with the 1-hour ozone standard is judged on the basis of the most recent three years of ambient air quality monitoring data. The 1-hour ozone standard is not met at a monitoring site if the average number of estimated exceedances of the ozone standard is greater that 1.0 (1.05 rounds up).

New England areas designated nonattainment in 1991[1]
that fail to meet the 1-hr ozone NAAQS in 1999-2001

State	Designated Area	O3 Design Value[2] (ppm) 1999-2001	Avg. Expected Exceedance Rate[3] 1999-2001
CT	Greater Connecticut	0.147	4.4
NY-NJ-CT	New York-N. New Jersey-Long Island	0.143	3.0 (3.7)
MA-NH	Boston-Lawrence-Worcester (E. MA)	0.138	1.7
RI	Providence (All RI)	0.144	1.7

SOURCE: U.S. EPA's Aerometric Information Retrieval System (AIRS)

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[1] Designations and classifications for ozone nonattainment areas as published in the Federal Register, 40 CFR Part 81

[2] The updated air quality design value is estimated for the 1999-2001 period using all air quality data reported to EPA's Aerometric Information Retrieval System (AIRS). The computation procedures follow EPA guidance for calculating design values (Laxton Memorandum, June 18, 1990). For sites with three complete years of monitoring data, the air quality design value is the fourth highest daily maximum 1-hour ozone concentration, because the standard allows one exceedance per year on average. It is important to note that the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments required that nonattainment areas be classified on the basis of the design value at the time the Amendments were passed, generally the 1987-89 period was used.

[3] The level of the 1-hour ozone Ambient Air Quality standard is 0.12 parts per million (ppm) daily maximum 1-hour average concentration not to be exceeded more than once per year on average. The average estimated number of exceedances column shows the number of days the 0.12 ppm 1-hour ozone standard was exceeded on average at the site recording the highest updated air quality value. This computation is performed after adjustment for any missing sampling days during the 3-year period, 1999-2001. The values in parentheses are associated with the monitor with the highest average estimated number of exceedances within the designated area; sometimes this statistic is associated with a different site than the site recording the highest updated air quality value.